Offset contracts of more than Rs.7500 Crores have been signed till date. Contracts between foreign suppliers and Indian defence companies are resulting in setting up of, *inter-alia*, manufacturing, design, testing, service centers in the Indian defence industries.

Structural Fault in MIG-29 Fighter Planes

†1220. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia, has pointed out structural faults in MIG-29 aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is formulating any action plan to decommission MIG-29 aircrafts from its airfleet;

(d) if so, the time period for decommissioning alongwith details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for keeping these aircrafts in the air fleet despite detection of structural faults in them;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Government has made a new deal for purchase of these aircrafts; and

(g) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in the light of these faults?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was a MiG-29 accident in Russia in December 2008. RAC-MiG has intimated that corrosion on the Fin Root Ribs has been identified as the cause of crack development.

(c) to (e) There is no plan to decommission MiG-29 aircraft. The repair scheme and preventive measures are in place and IAF has not encountered major problems concerning the issue.

(f) and (g) IAF has not entered into a new deal for procurement of MiG-29 aircraft.

Reduction in Deployment of Forces in J&K

1221. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether threat from terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir is real;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) is there a move to reduce deployment forces; and

(d) the effect and consequence thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Pakistan remains intact and infiltration attempts by terrorists are continuing. While the Security Forces have, through relentless operations, substantially controlled the violence levels, the terrorist threat remains real.

(c) and (d) The quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on the changing threat perception.

Recruitments in Armed Forces

1222. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies as on 1st April, 2009 at the lowest recruitment level in the three wings of the armed forces as well as in Coast Guard, force-wise and category-wise *i.e.* sepoy at the lowest level and 2nd Lieutenant at the Commissioned Officers Level;

(b) the extent to which these vacancies are likely to be filled during 2009-2010. force-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the procedure being adopted/proposed to be adopted so that new recruitments in the services and coast guard are made from all the regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The number of vacancies as on 1st April, 2009 at the lowest recruitment level in the three Wings of Armed Forces as also in the Coast Guards, in respect of Officers and Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) are as under:-

	No. of vacancies	
	Officers	PBORs
Army	2,240	40,980
Navy	1,475	4,459
Air Force	578	3,739
Coast Guard	79	735

The recruitment in Armed Forces is an on going process and is planned to fill up the vacancies.

Recruitment in the Armed Forces and the Coast Guard are made from all over the country for which well established procedures are in place.

Proposal of Government of Gujarat for Coastal Security Scheme

1223. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the original proposal of Government of Gujarat under the Coastal Security Scheme;